

There is another problem, which may seem to relate primarily to domestic questions but which has a vital bearing on the success of our preparedness plans. I refer to the labor situation and stoppages of work in defense industries.

There is no fair-minded American citizen of intelligence, I believe, who does not want to see American labor receive everything to which it is entitled. But it must be remembered that the security of our Country is at stake. No group must be allowed to imperil our national security by unnecessary demands that can better be decided in normal times rather than at a critical period in our history.

It must be realized that our President has proclaimed this a period of unlimited emergency. Prolonged strikes, which may be called without exhausting efforts toward conciliation and mediation, can thwart the progress of our Nation in other directions. No one group can be more powerful than the Government itself.

At a time when every public activity is subordinated to defense efforts mediation and conciliation and "cooling periods" should take precedence over strikes and work stoppages and novel demands. A final authority has to be recognized and that final authority should be the Commander-in-Chief of our Army and Navy who is the duly elected Chief Executive of the Nation. Upon any failure of the carefully planned machinery to settle labor disputes, the President should be possessed of sufficient authority to determine what is required for the Country's interest. Certainly if the emergency gives the President the right to take young men from their homes and schools and place them in the Army and Navy, then it is not going too far to give him similar authority over other elements of the citizenry whose actions might jeopardize the lives and safety of our service men.

As someone has so ably said, the right to strike is an American right that must be retained. But if we are to safeguard this right for the future, it might well be necessary temporarily to regulate it so we can swiftly prepare to save our democratic way of life. For let us remember, the right to organize, to bargain collectively, to strike as a last resort, are rights not permitted today in many countries, and that would not be permitted in this Country unless we are able to be strong enough to safeguard our present system of government.

Big as our Country is, rich as it is beyond the telling in natural wealth, the fact already has been borne home to us that sacrifices, possibly deep sacrifices, will be necessary before we can be satisfied that the end of adequate defense preparedness has been achieved.

Formal notice to this effect was served several months ago by the Federal Government in the imposition of new and higher taxes on many articles and services. That further imposts, entailing deeper sacrifices on the part of everyone will be necessary, and that these new taxes will be imposed before many months have passed, is a foregone conclusion.

Anticipating this state of affairs, it is very gratifying to say that your own State of Maryland has been able to put its financial house in order so that at a time when taxes in Washington and in many States of the Union are beginning